

stones bearing areas and for setting up of Gem-stone Testing Laboratory for identification, testing and evaluation of different types of precious and semi-precious stones.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

TV Coverage of North-Eastern States

5183. **SHRI KAMLA MISHRA**
MADHUKAR:
SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA
WASNIK:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR
YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inadequate coverage and untimely telecast of English programmes over Doordarshan in the North-Eastern States, particularly in Mizoram and Nagaland,

(b) whether the programmes telecast from Bangladesh are viewed more than Doordarshan programmes by the people of these states; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take for increasing the coverage and to telecast better programmes.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) TV service is at present available to an estimated 79% population of North-Eastern region including those living in fringe service areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtaining satisfactory reception. Doordarshan telecast a number of English programmes on various subjects from morning to late evening which are well received in all parts of North-eastern states.

(b) No specific survey has been undertaken to find out the extent of viewing of Doordarshan programmes, vis-a-vis

Bangladesh TV programmes in the North-Eastern States including the tribal states of Mizoram and Nagaland. However, a recent sample survey done in Guwahati of Assam reveals that more than 75% of TV viewers watch National programmes of Doordarshan beamed from 8.40 PM onwards.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to extent TV coverage to the uncovered parts of the country in a phased manner depending upon availability of resources and to present quality programmes to the viewers. Besides 11 TV transmitter projects are presently under various stages of implementation in the North-Eastern States aimed at increasing Doordarshan's coverage in the region.

Assistance for Setting up Information Centres and Theatres

5184. **SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:**
 Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated as special assistance for setting up information centres and theatres in the States during the last three years;

(b) the details of schemes and the amount provided for the setting up of those centres in Rajasthan during the said period;

(c) whether any amount was allocated to Tonk district for the construction of information centre in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) No amount was allocated as special assistance for setting up of Information centres and theatres in the States. However, National Films Development Corporation (NFDC), a public sector undertaking in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting under a scheme for financing Cinema theatres all over the country, earmarked following amounts for theatre construction.

1988-89	Rs. 144.00 lakhs.
1989-90	Rs. 25 lakhs.
1990-91	Rs. 30.00 lakhs.

(b) There is no scheme for providing special assistance for setting up Information Centres in the States including Rajasthan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Central Government do not provide assistance to the States for opening Information Centres of the State either at district level or at State level.

[English]

Selection of News Readers and Announcers

5185. **SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR** : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for selection of Newsreaders and announcers in the Doordarshan; and

❖ (b) the number of applications pending for selection and approved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The criteria is proficiency and knowledge of language good pronunciation and diction, clarity of voice, cameragenic/telegenic features etc. The minimum educational qualification is graduate and the preferred age group is between 20-35 years.

(b) According to Doordarshan 1380 applications are pending During 1991-92 eight candidates were selected.

[Translation]

Steel Prices

5186. **DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA** :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated December 5, 1991 regarding steel prices;

(b) if so, whether the price of Indian Steel in the International market is more than the prices of other countries and if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the percentage of the taxes imposed by the Government on the price of the steel sold in the Indian market and its comparative figure in Japan, Germany, China and USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Domestic and export prices of different categories of steel in India are not comparable with export and domestic prices in other steel producing countries.

(c) The levies and excise duty on steel produced by the integrated steel plants in India constitute 14% to 13% of the Ex-works prices of different items of steel. Similar information for Japan, Germany, China and U.S.A is not available.

[English]

Alternative Sources of Energy

5187. **DR. R. MALLU** : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government have been advised to develop alternative sources of energy;

(b) whether the Governments propose to vigorously pursue development of wind energy in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government will also